

**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF PHARMACY**

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## **WARNING TO THE PUBLIC**

### **FOREIGN MEDICATION CONCERNS**

#### **Is it Safe? Is it Legal?**

- Using prescription drugs purchased from foreign pharmacies, including many on-line pharmacies, could cause serious health problems.
- If you are not sure where the pharmacy is located, whether it is licensed in South Dakota, whether a licensed pharmacist is filling and checking your prescription, whether the medications are being reimported into the U.S. by the original manufacturer or not, whether the medication is FDA approved, or whether your order is coming from a pharmacy at all, you are advised not to purchase the medication.
- To provide safe, legal pharmaceutical services in the United States and South Dakota, a business is required to meet both federal and state licensing requirements. These requirements are mandated by law to protect you, the patient.
- The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) mandates that causing prescription drugs originally manufactured in the U.S. to be reimported into the U.S. by anyone other than the original manufacturer is a violation of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.
- Using medications made in other countries that are imported into the U.S. violates the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act if the medicine is not approved by the FDA or if it does not meet all FDA approval requirements.

- South Dakota laws require any pharmacies, manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, vendors, and brokers selling prescription drugs in this state be licensed and regulated by the Board of Pharmacy to protect the drug supply to South Dakota citizens. (SDCL 36-11-19.3; SDCL 36-11-13; SDCL 36-11-14)
- If you have purchased medications outside the United States and experienced an adverse event, please notify the South Dakota Board of Pharmacy by emailing [dennis.jones@state.sd.us](mailto:dennis.jones@state.sd.us) or calling 605-362-2737. Information provided is not intended to be punitive, but will be used to monitor any problems the public encounters.